

# Virginia Department of Veterans Services

900 East Main Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
[www.virginiaforveterans.com](http://www.virginiaforveterans.com)

---

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 14, 2007

Contact: Anne Atkins  
(804) 371-0441

### *Veterans Benefits Service Office Now Located at Salem VA Medical Center*

ROANOKE—The Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) has opened a new veterans service office at the Salem VA Medical Center. The office is located at 1970 Roanoke Blvd., Building 12, Room 101 in Salem.

DVS Benefits Service Representative Brad Marsolek staffs the office and helps veterans file for VA benefits. Marsolek, a former Marine, served on multiple deployments between 1993 and 1999. He previously worked as a benefits service representative at the DVS office in Fairfax.

Benefits service representatives like Marsolek, work one-on-one with veterans and their families helping them obtain benefits and entitlements on a local, state and federal level. These representatives help veterans apply for medical services, disability benefits due to disease or injury incurred during or aggravated by time-in-service, or disability benefits due to secondary medical conditions resulting from a service connection. “For example, Diabetes Mellitus, type II, is presumptive by law to be associated with exposure to Agent Orange. Veterans exposed to Agent Orange should file a claim to obtain assistance in treating their diabetes,” explained Marsolek.

DVS representatives also assist with other types of claims, such as veterans compensation and pension claims, dependency and indemnity compensation for widows/widowers and children of disabled veterans, widows’ pensions, dependents’ education, veteran home loans and death benefit claims. “Basically, we’re advocates for veterans. We help them with their paperwork, we

track the claim with the VA, and we represent them if they need to appeal a claim,” said Marsolek. “I am honored to have this opportunity to continue serving my fellow veterans.”

Statewide, the Virginia Department of Veterans Services operates 20 benefit services offices where representatives assist veterans and their family members in filing claims for VA benefits. The agency operates two cemeteries for veterans: the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia and the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk. A third cemetery in Dublin, Virginia is in the initial stages of development. The agency operates the Virginia Veterans Care Center (VVCC) in Roanoke. The VVCC is a long-term care facility offering nursing and domiciliary care for veterans. The Sitter-Barfoot Veterans Care Center is under construction in Richmond and is slated to open in 2007. The agency also certifies that post-secondary educational institutions meet G.I. Bill funding and eligibility requirements, enabling veterans and family members to pursue educational opportunities.

For more information about the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, visit [www.virginiaforveterans.com](http://www.virginiaforveterans.com). To reach the Marsolek at the Salem VAMC office, call (540) 982-2463, extension 3557.

# # #